

Fair, cold today.
Clear tomorrow.

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MARYLAND SOLONS MAY DECLARE WAR ON CORPORATIONS

Bills of Investigation to Go Before the Legislature.

INVESTORS CONCERNED

Measures Are Drastic and Result From Exposures in New York.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 23.—Bills affecting corporations are being prepared for submission immediately after the Legislature meets, and some of them are so drastic that they are causing investors concern.

The governor has promised to protect chartered institutions against the passage of laws designed to inflict injury, but not a few are enjoying privileges for which the State is not receiving adequate return, and these it is proposed to bring to book.

Heretofore corporate influence has protected them from adverse legislation, the politicians here as elsewhere being ready, for a consideration, to lend a helping hand. Public sentiment has, however, been so aroused by the disclosures in New York that the old methods may not avail. Already one of the senators has intimated that he contemplates the introduction of a resolution looking to a legislative investigation of the affairs of some of the largest public service corporations, and if such an investigation be instituted there is little doubt of results.

Conservatives Are Dubious.

The more conservative members do not think it advisable to go to the extreme, for while they admit that the conduct of these institutions has not been altogether free from criticism, there have been no charges of crookedness, and hence no justification for action which might tend to impair the value of securities held by innocent parties.

But this feeling will not interfere with legislation which may afford the public more protection by surrounding the offending corporations with proper safeguards. Because of the protests made against the corporation laws now on the statute books the general assembly in 1902 adopted a resolution asking the then governor, Smith, to appoint a commission to revise them and submit a report at the following session of the Legislature. This commission, consisting of Stevens, A. Williams, George R. White, and George R. Gaither, completed its work near the close of the session, too late to secure proper consideration. The work was carefully done, but some of the changes recommended were so sweeping that even those favoring them thought it wise to defer action until this session.

The report has now been put in bill form, and will be among the first to be introduced. That it will take up much time and meet with determined opposition is generally expected, but the governor will stand by the commission, and is prepared to sign the bill if it is passed.

One Sweeping Change.

Among the more important provisions, and one which if adopted will create a new condition of affairs in this State, is that permitting any proposed company desiring to furnish electricity or gas to secure permission to do business as any other partnership concern under the general incorporation law.

If this passes the combination which now controls the gas and electric light companies would no longer enjoy a monopoly, hence the proposed change in the law will be antagonized. The Ryan syndicate in New York owns a controlling interest in this company.

Another bill now being prepared that is likely to meet with opposition is intended to safeguard the public against the financialing of a State superintendent of banking who is invested with the authority of examining all trust companies, private banking houses, and building associations, just as the National Government now looks into the affairs of the national banks. A State auditor was appointed under a law passed in 1890 who, it was thought, would do this work, but the act was loosely drawn and he cannot enforce an observance. If objection is raised to his making an examination he cannot compel a production of the books.

This bill was introduced at the last session of the Legislature, and it passed the Senate but failed in the House owing to the methods used by a strong lobby sent to Annapolis to compass its defeat.

State Railroad Commission.

Still another measure distasteful to the corporations which will be urged by its authors is one providing for a State railroad commission. It is very similar to that now in force in South Carolina and Texas, and is objected to by the railroads.

It looks now as if the organization would succeed in defeating the governor's choice for State treasurer and in organizing the House of Delegates. Murray Vandiver has secured the pledges of fully three-fifths of all the members and if they stand by him in caucus his renomination as State treasurer is assured. About the only way to defeat him is by the governor's people refusing to go into caucus and voting for the Republican candidate, but this they will hardly do. Hence Vandiver's re-election seems to be certain.

The indications are that Carvel D. Benson will be elected speaker of the House.

SENATE MAY RULE CANAL COMMISSION WITH HEAVY HAND

Would Divest the Body of Its Supreme Control.

MR. BISHOP RECONSIDERS

No Open Charges of Graft Are Made, But Expenditures Are Scored.

A measure will be introduced in the Senate immediately after Congress convenes placing the Isthmian Canal Commission practically under the control of the Senate.

The measure, which is now in course of preparation, will not, it is said, entirely abolish the canal commission, but it will tend to divest it of its supreme authority.

The commissioners will be responsible to Congress alone, according to the provision of the measure, and will work entirely under Congressional authority. A committee will be appointed by the Senate whose duties it will be to oversee the work being done on the canal and which will act as an intermediary between the Senate and the Isthmian Canal Commission.

Salaries of the Canal Commissioners and of the employees of the various offices of the board will be subjected to a revision by the Senate, as will also be the salaries of the officials and employees who actually do the work on the Isthmus.

Would Solve Problem.

The power that is proposed to be outlined in the bill that is now under preparation will in all probability be invested in the Senate Committee on Inter-oceanic Canals. This plan is considered to be the only feasible way out of the present dilemma.

The Senate does not wish to embarrass the President in any way and it is understood that he would be agreeable to such a measure being put into effect.

This was made manifest yesterday by the announcement from the White House that J. B. Bishop, secretary of the Panama Canal Commission, recently nominated to fill a vacancy on the commission, will not be permitted to exercise the functions of a commissioner until his nomination has been confirmed by the Senate.

Although a warm personal friend of the President, Mr. Bishop had unwittingly assumed that his defense by the President and the Secretary of War from the severe criticism directed against him in both branches of Congress meant that the executive purpose making an issue of him, even if in the doing he offended the Senate, which just before the holiday recess was inclined to view Bishop's nomination somewhat in the light of an affront.

Changes His Mind.

The President, however, will give Congress no occasion to complain upon this score, for after a conference at the White House yesterday Mr. Bishop announced that he was not serving as commissioner and that he would not do so until his confirmation. He is continuing to act as secretary.

It was made clear by a number of leading Senators before they departed for their homes that Mr. Bishop's nomination would not be reported to the Senate until the Committee on Inter-oceanic Canals had received assurances from the White House and from the Secretary of War that Mr. Bishop was not to occupy the dual position of Commissioner and secretary. The Senate will not listen to the former New York editor receiving a salary of \$10,000. The members of the Appropriations Committee point to Mr. Bishop's testimony before them recently to show that he has very little specific knowledge of canal work.

At a recent conference at the Capitol between Senators who are deeply interested in the affairs of the canal in general, the whole subject was discussed in detail. The question of high salaries was warmly arraigned. On the whole it was conceded that Senators or Cabinet officers were being considered "small fry" in comparison with what executives and chiefs of bureaus on the Canal Commission were evidently held at, so far as salaries were concerned.

The question of a certain official of the Canal Commission holding two high offices was also under discussion. The effect of such a condition, it was argued, did not conform with governmental affairs, and it was agreed then that some decisive action should be taken in reorganizing the whole business of the canal.

One of the Democratic members of the conference became greatly agitated over the conditions, and as was outlined in The Times of last Sunday, said he was unqualifiedly in favor of pursuing drastic measures and get right down to the bottom of the whole affair. He and his party, he declared, were anxious to have a canal cut across the Isthmus somewhere and at some time, but under present conditions the realization of this is impossible.

CHRISTMAS CROWDS' SOBER MERRIMENT ON WIDE STREETS

Babe Might Have Slept in Midst of Hurrying Throngs.

POLICE FORCE ALERT

Jests There Are, But Quiet, Unobtrusive, and Without Noise.

Although tonight is the theoretical Christmas Eve, last night was the real one in the way of crowding the streets until midnight, and making the streets of the business section look as if the whole of Washington had decided to go down town and walk incessantly, rapidly, and merrily.

It was Christmas Eve, but Christmas Eve as quiet as the proverbial mouse, as orderly as a diplomatic reception, and as free from real noise as a pauper's funeral. There were no fireworks because the members of the Metropolitan police force saw to their absence. For the same reason there were no big horns, and but few small ones.

Christmas Eve on the Quiet.

Had a babe's cradle been set in the midst of the thickest crowd on the most popular thoroughfare last night, calm and peaceful would have been his sleep. It was Christmas Eve on the quiet—a very smug Christmas Eve—one with but few cakes and ale—one that would have been laid in the shade by a comparison of its actual disturbances and disorders with those of a well-conducted home for old maids.

But there were thousands of men, women, and children on the sidewalks and in the roadways of the streets and avenues, and in and out of every store in the business section there dashed and eddied and rushed a throng of belated shoppers, colliding with the sightseers and those who were looking for some signs of noise, old-time merry-making, and Christmas confusion.

Familiar Types.

And there were the old figures of the Christmas eve crowds, the youths who tried to flirt with the girls who would not flirt, and the girls who would flirt with the boys who did not try to flirt; the insanely laughing swain with his best girl, the careworn mother with her last bit of good things for the Christmas dinner, the hen-pecked husband with the bundles he wanted to throw into the gutter, and the white-haired old man whose merry-making was only from the memories his saddened soul brought to his garrulous tongue.

Everywhere also there were groups of boys and girls who laughed and laughed. There seemed to be a well-defined idea that laughter would not be interfered with by the guardians of the peace. Very occasionally a little boy who had no idea what the inside of a police cell looked like would blow a whistle with a whizz to it and then dart away in the crowd.

Sorry He Couldn't Arrest Them.

Once three girls went marching up Pennsylvania avenue, blowing loud blasts, long and frequent, on big tin horns.

"Those girls," remarked a policeman, "are violating the law. But," he added, with a tinge of regret in his tones, "you can't arrest them."

The girls passed them with a triumphant flourish, and once more the somber silence enfolded the crowd.

There was here and there an aptitude for real jests, and the jokes which made no noise and against which nobody could complain. One came about in this wise:

Hundreds Watch Treasury.

A group of men stood on the edge of F street looking intently, and with the universal silence, in the direction of the Treasury. Not a word was said. The men merely looked. Gradually at first, and then rapidly the group became larger, everybody staring toward the Treasury. Finally a line of humanity, two or three deep and a block long stood looking with awestruck solemnity up F street. Nobody knew, nobody asked, what was the trouble.

Several hundred pairs of eyes tried to pierce the half-lit darkness to find the interesting thing. At last one, braver than his fellows, asked the man next him what had happened. The questioner admitted he did not know, but he kept his eyes glued on the Treasury. Then somebody got an idea that it was all a joke. It was—there was nothing to look at. The crowd dispersed and laughed—laughed, that is, in a sober, chuckling, well-bred way. No one wished to run the risk of laughing a note that sounded like a horn.

Walked the Streets.

But the quiet did not drive the people home. Washingtonians knew it was Christmas, and they had the time of their lives walking the streets, looking at each other and going through the stores. In not a few instances parties of young people formed just to "do the stores," walking through them and visiting every floor in search of friends and excitement.

On Seventh street the throng was dense. Here at times there were complete blockades, and the patient populace—beneath the silent atmosphere—waited until motion was once more possible. On Pennsylvania avenue and Ninth street there were also great

"SANTA CLAUS" HAD A BUSY AFTERNOON WITH THE LITTLE ONES



BASKETS READY FOR DISTRIBUTION.

WARNER'S MOVE MEANS BIG SAVING

Correspondence Section at Pension Bureau Abolished.

WORK IS DISTRIBUTED

New Plan Does Not Mean the Discharge of Any of the Employees.

Abolishing a complete section or division in the Pension Office, and saving the Government \$40,000 annually, is Commissioner Warner's latest move toward perfecting his reorganization scheme that he began about two months ago.

The section of correspondence, where on an average twenty-five clerks were yearly employed, and where \$40,000 a year was expended in clerk hire alone, was disbanded a week ago.

Mr. Warner, in his new role as an organizer or reorganizer on business methods, could not clearly see why the correspondence of the Pension Office should be classed under a separate section. He questioned the different chiefs of bureaus and divisions on the feasibility or advisability of discontinuing the "correspondence" section, and distributing the work in the divisions to which it really belonged.

Not Liked at First.

The idea at first was not agreeably accepted. It was pointed out that the "correspondence" section was instituted nearly two years ago by Mr. Warner's predecessor, and that since that time the bureau had become thoroughly familiar with such work as was expected to do, and that a move such as the Commissioner contemplated would prove disastrous.

Mr. Warner, however, could not see it that way and went about to make the change. He found, by investigation, that the forces in the different divisions would necessarily have to be increased to keep up with the work thrown upon them by Congress. The increase would probably mean the employment of from twenty to thirty additional clerks. This left an opening for putting his scheme into effect. He immediately issued orders for the transfer to the various divisions of the force of the correspondence section and also the distribution of the letter writing to the divisions where it belonged.

No Employee Suffered.

In making the change not a single employee suffered a reduction in salary and the work in the other divisions was gotten up-to-date. The correspondence of the Pension Office, which at this time of the year is considered enormous, was also expedited to such an extent that even those who at first could not agree with Mr. Warner that "red tape" was not necessary are now glad the change was made.

This elimination of the "red tape" process in Government work is in part the scheme, as was announced in The Times two weeks ago, that Mr. Warner had under consideration. Some additional changes in system will be instituted early next year, as it is the Commissioner's intention to place the various divisions of the office on a purely business basis.

HORSE HURT HIM.

Suffering from internal injuries, Henry Maley, twenty years old, of 2900 Tenth street northwest, was taken to the Emergency Hospital yesterday afternoon. He was employed as a helper on a wagon used for delivering dry goods from a store on Seventh street northwest and yesterday afternoon the horse attached to the vehicle fell on his abdomen. His condition is not thought to be serious.

100 feet of good dressed Lumber, \$2.00. Frank Libby & Co., 6 & N. Y. ave.—Adv.



PACKING THE BASKET.

MRS. RITTERHOFF'S LASCERATED HEART

Amatory Epistles Tell Sad Tale in Divorce Court.

TOOK COGNOMEN OF "BABY"

Washington Woman's Domestic Felicity Was Influenced by the Cruel Zodiacal Sign of Capricornus.

Did This Guide Her?

"Everybody should study astronomy. It arouses the imagination, and the imagination is the most God-like of human faculties, because it is the most creative."

Was it due to the above advice of the popular scientific writer, Garrett P. Serviss, that Mrs. Albin Ritterhoff, of Northeast Washington, and now figuring in a sensational divorce suit in New York city, took up astronomy to develop her mind, doomed by astrologists to be warped, secretive and anxious? Was it the belief that being born under the zodiacal sign of Capricornus hers was a nature that had to crave love, warmth, and harmony, and that until she met Flincomb, the co-respondent named in the case, she had suffered for the awful want of it?

These are the questions which many of her Washington friends who remember Mrs. Ritterhoff, the pretty music teacher of Northeast Washington, are asking one another as they read the dispatches telling of the divorce trial in the New York supreme court.

Washington Man Named.

As stated in The Times yesterday Mrs. Ritterhoff is being sued for absolute divorce by her husband, who has named Frederick A. Flincomb, 730 New Jersey avenue, this city, as co-respondent.

Strange as it may seem, Flincomb has taken the stand and testified for the defendant telling of the divorce trial in New York continuously, while she lived in her little Washington home in Central Heights, near Chesapeake Junction. His own boy, by his divorced wife, was put on the stand to corroborate his father's

REBELLION SWEEPS ALL SECTIONS OF RUSSIAN EMPIRE

Bloody Struggle for Supremacy Now Well Under Way.

LIFE AND DEATH BATTLE

Troops Desert to Join Revolutionists, While Peasants Kill and Burn.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 24.—The great struggle for life is on in Russia, accompanied by all the horror that such a conflict can arouse. The conflict is between autocracy and the people. It will decide whether the present dynasty shall live, or whether the masses will gain the right to live and not merely exist.

From one end of the country to the other the revolutionists have kindled the fires of rebellion.

Terror in Moscow.

Meager reports received today from Moscow state that the reign of terror has already begun there. Street barricades have been erected and from behind these the revolutionists are fighting the troops. Several sanguinary engagements have occurred today, and many persons have been killed and wounded on both sides.

Violence is widespread through the provinces, and there is a fear of a general uprising of the peasantry, who may kill all the "black coats," as the priests and government agents are called. In the Baltic provinces on the north the people are thoroughly aroused and already have succeeded so well that the authority of the Czar has been practically nullified.

In the southern provinces the peasants have joined with the revolutionists of the cities in the anti-government propaganda. Landowners have been their victims, and so thorough has been the devastating work of the peasants that few estates remain undamaged, while the former owners are fugitives from their homes.

Peasants Create Havoc.

In the east, the Kharkoff region, the peasants for weeks have been engaged in a similar warfare against the nobility and the autocracy, everything which stands for governmental authority in their sight. They, too, have succeeded in thoroughly terrorizing the landowners and in devastating the country, despite the efforts of General Maximovitch, with his Cossacks, who have indulged in all sorts of brutalities in a hopeless attempt to subdue the peasantry.

To the west, in Poland, it has been necessary to declare martial law in the hope of keeping the insurrectionary forces in check.

This does not take into consideration the new general strike which has been inaugurated by the revolutionists, and which the leaders of the movement declare is certain to end in the overthrow of the government, and incidentally the dynasty.

It is this strike which the government has feared. The workers demonstrate their great power during the last strike when by tying up all industry they wrung from the Czar his manifesto of October 30. The present strike is to bring about a new government, in the opinion of the strikers.

Prepared for Bloodshed.

The revolutionists do not expect this victory without paying heavily for it. They are prepared for bloodshed, and for the exercise of all kinds of repressive measures by the government. They do not flinch from the dangers they face. The council of workmen in St. Petersburg openly voted for armed insurrection, and the laboring organizations elsewhere have supported them in this stand.

And the civil war has actually begun. Moscow, to which all Russians look as the real leader of any movement affecting the country, because it is the ancient capital of the country, is even at the present moment the scene of bloody conflicts between revolutionists and the troops which remain loyal to the government.

Soldiers Have Suffered.

Nor has the bloodshed been confined to the revolutionists. The soldiers, too, have suffered. The Cossacks have lost many men. In every attack on a barricade the soldiers have suffered almost as heavily as the defenders of the strongholds.

The revolutionists have resorted to other tactics, too, in their fight to make their power felt. Disputes which are given full credence announce that they have resorted to that most dreaded weapon, the bomb. The prefecture at Moscow, according to late advices received last yesterday afternoon, has been destroyed by bombs. The prefect escaped death by being absent at the adjacent barracks in which the loyal troops were victorious after hard fighting.

The strikers at Moscow are said to number 150,000 men. The marked indifference being shown by the troops for the lives of the revolutionists who have been shot down by scores has aroused all the working men to the point where they are wild for an opportunity for reprisal. When the turn of the revolutionists does come, as the leaders predict it will, it is probable that an awful revenge will be taken.

The example of the Moscow workmen in striking, and the attitude of the revolutionists who have shown themselves willing to risk their lives for the

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